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# CURRENT LITERATURE

## MINOR NOTICES

**A new color guide.**—A new color guide by Dr. ROBERT RIDGWAY,<sup>1</sup> the well known ornithologist, is practically an entirely revised and much enlarged edition of his earlier nomenclature of colors (1886) with 17 plates and 186 colors as against 53 plates and 1115 colors in the present work. The color work was done by A. Hoen & Co., Baltimore, and is much more uniform in different copies than in the earlier edition, which was hand-stenciled from several mixings of the same color; while in the present work each color for the whole edition of 5000 copies was prepared from one lot of color and uniformly coated at one time.

The work is designed to be equally useful to botanists, florists, artists, dyers, merchants, and chemists who require a standard color scheme. The colors have evidently been standardized to a degree of accuracy not hitherto attained in any color chart. The colors are one-half by one inch, arranged on a heavy gray paper in three vertical columns of 7 colors each. All the colors are named as well as symbolized, but if a given color comes between "hermosa pink" (1 f) and "eosine pink" (1 d), it could be designated 1 e. In this manner about 2385 additional colors or a total of 3500 can be designated. Undoubtedly exception will be taken to some of the names, but in this the personal equation plays such a large part that decisions must be rather arbitrarily rendered. The primary colors have been standardized by Dr. P. G. NUTTING of the U.S. Bureau of Standards.

A table of percentages of color, together with an explanation of the amount of white, black, or neutral gray used as above, will give an approximately ready clue to the reproduction of any color in the guide, the only uncertain factor being the possible lack of standardized primary colors to begin with. Definitions of the principal color terms, such as color, shade, tint, hue, tone, etc., which are used almost interchangeably by many people, will repay careful study by those not familiar with their exact use.

A slight error on p. 12, due to a misunderstanding, should be corrected. Mr. F. A. WALPOLE had no connection with the color project of the American Mycological Society, the preparation of which was delegated to the late Dr. L. M. UNDERWOOD, Dr. W. A. MURRILL, and the writer. MR. WALPOLE died before the committee was appointed, and the project was abandoned after two years' work by the committee in favor of Dr. RIDGWAY's work which had not previously come to their notice.—P. L. RICKER.

<sup>1</sup> RIDGWAY, ROBERT, Color standards and color nomenclature. pp. 44. *pls.* 53. Published by the author (3447 Oakwood Terrace N.W., Washington, D.C.). 1912. \$8.00.